What is claimed is:

1. A ceramic-molding binder, comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200 to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %, and a carboxylic acid and lactone ring content of 0.02 to 0.4 mole %.

2. A ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid and lactone ring content in the vinyl alcohol polymer satisfies the following Formula I:

$$-1.94 \times 10^{-5} \times P + 0.044 \leqq \text{content} \leqq -1.39 \times 10^{-4} \times P + 0.42 \quad (I)$$

(where the content (in mole %) represents the content of carboxylic acid and lactone rings, and P represents the viscosity average degree of polymerization of the vinyl alcohol polymer).

3. A ceramic-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 1 or 2 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

4. A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 3, wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

5. A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 3 or 4 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

6. A compression-molding binder for ceramics, comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200 to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %, and a carboxylic acid and lactone ring content of 0.02 to 0.4 mole %.

7. A compression-molding binder for ceramics according to Claim 6, wherein the carboxylic acid and lactone ring content in the vinyl alcohol polymer satisfies the following Formula I:

$$-1.94 \times 10^{-5} \times P + 0.044 \leqq \text{content} \leqq -1.39 \times 10^{-4} \times P + 0.42 \quad (I)$$

(where the content (in mole %) represents the content of carboxylic acid and lactone rings, and P represents the

viscosity average degree of polymerization of the vinyl alcohol polymer).

8. A ceramic-compression-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 6 or 7 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

9. A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 8, wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

10. A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 8 or 9 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.